

## CLAIMS

I claim:

~~1. A thermal regulating cushioning device comprising:~~  
a flexible, deformable outer membrane being adapted to sealably receive a liquid-like material therein;  
a foam core being disposed within said flexible, deformable outer membrane wherein said foam core has a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane;  
a liquid-like material being sealably contained within said flexible, deformable outer membrane and saturating said foam core, said liquid-like material being at least partially circulatable through said foam core wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support such that said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto.

2. The thermal regulating cushioning device of claim 1 wherein said foam core further comprises reticulated polyurethane foam having a porosity ranging from 10 pores per inch to 60 pores per inch.

3. The thermal regulating cushioning device of claim 1 wherein the outer membrane of said fluid container further comprises vinyl having a thickness ranging from one millimeter to two hundred millimeters.

~~4. The thermal regulating cushioning device of claim 1 and further comprising a resealable inlet and outlet valve for ingress and egress of said liquid-like material.~~

5. The thermal regulating cushioning device of claim 1 wherein said flexible outer deformable membrane further comprises a lower outer membrane having a non-sliding surface functioning to hold said device in a predetermined position.

5 <sup>6</sup> 6. The thermal regulating cushioning device of claim <sup>5</sup> wherein said nonsliding surface is a studded cloth chosen from a group consisting of rubber studded cloth and vinyl studded cloth.

*Cancelled by P. APR 103*  
7. The thermal regulating cushioning device of claim 1 and further comprising a thermal regulating unit cooperating with the liquid-like material to either heat or cool the liquid-like material.

10 <sup>8</sup> 8. The thermal regulating cushioning device of claim <sup>7</sup> further comprising a receiving area adapted to receive the body of an animal or human therein, said receiving area having a dimension greater than said body such that said saturated foam core and said outer membrane substantially surround said body.

*Fig 9*  
15 <sup>9</sup> 9. ~~An encapsulating, thermal regulating cushioning device comprising:~~  
a flexible, deformable outer membrane adapted to sealably receive a liquid-like material therein;  
a foam core being disposed within said flexible, deformable outer membrane wherein said foam core has a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane;  
20 a liquid-like material being sealably contained within said flexible, deformable outer membrane and saturating said foam core, said liquid-like material being at least partially circutable through said foam core wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support such that said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto;  
25 a receiving area adapted to receive the body of a user, said receiving area having a dimension larger than that of said body such that said foam core and ~~outer membrane substantially surround said body;~~

*Fig 10*  
10. The encapsulating device of claim <sup>9</sup> further comprising a nonstick substance covering said outer membrane.

11. ~~The encapsulating device of claim 9 further comprising a thermal regulating unit cooperating with the liquid-like material to heat or cool the temperature of the liquid-like material.~~

12. A thermal regulating cushioning device comprising:

a plurality of segments of consistent size, each of said segments connectable to at least one other segment, whereby the length of said device is selectively variable, each of said segments comprising:

a flexible, deformable outer membrane being adapted to sealably receive a liquid-like material therein;

a foam core being disposed within said flexible, deformable outer membrane wherein said foam core has a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane;

a liquid-like material being sealably contained within said flexible, deformable outer membrane and saturating said foam core, said liquid-like material being at least partially circulatable through said foam core wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support such that said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto

13. A method for regulating the temperature of a user comprising the steps of:

bringing a portion of the body of said user in intimate contact with a cushioning device having a foam core saturated with a liquid-like material, said foam core covered by a deformable, sealable flexible membrane and having a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane, wherein said liquid-like material is at least partially circulatable through said foam core wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support for said user, and

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~~wherein said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto.~~

*Sub  
d2* 14. The method for regulating the temperature of a user of claim 13 and further comprising the step of wrapping said cushion device around said user.

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15. The method for regulating the temperature of a user of claim 13 and further comprising the step of heating or cooling the temperature of the liquid-like material with a thermal regulating unit.

16. The method for regulating the temperature of a user of claim 13 wherein said flexible outer membrane has a non-sticking surface.

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17. The method for regulating the temperature of a user of claim 13 wherein said cushioning device includes a receiving area having a dimension greater than said portion of the user's body, such that said saturated foam core and said outer membrane substantially surround said portion.